

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

February 26, 2013

In November 2008, the new a state-of-the-art 600-bed LAC+USC Medical Center opened its doors to patients and has provided world-class service to the thousands of patients who have sought treatment at the facility. The LAC+USC Medical Center has continued the rich traditions of service and healing that it inherited from the historic General Hospital's seven decades of service.

Despite the dedication of the thousands of professional and support staff and the quality of services provided at the LAC+USC Medical Center, it has been operating in excess of capacity leading to overflow inpatient med-surg patient transfers to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center as well as an ill-advised, non-industry standard 95% utilization rate at the hospital for inpatient beds. As a result, we are struggling to provide appropriate inpatient and emergency care to our patients.

Despite the focused efforts of LAC+USC Medical Center staff and administration, the hospital and its patients continue to be subject to excessive emergency room wait times that lead to recurrent instances where the emergency department is dangerously overcrowded. Maintenance of such high patient capacity levels is unfair to patients and the staff, who

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diligently strive to ensure high levels of care.

According to a 2010 HDR Architecture report, “LAC+USC bed capacity is sized too small relative to its inpatient bed demand, which is consequently affecting conditions in its ED. LAC+USC is in need of access to additional Med-Surg beds.” Conditions have not substantially changed since release of the report.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act commences in just over nine months and its implementation in Los Angeles County may mimic the Massachusetts experience that demonstrated an increased demand for inpatient services. It is essential that Los Angeles County be prepared for the Affordable Care Act.

Currently, a master plan is underway for the LAC+USC Medical Center campus that has solicited community input and medical expertise to specifically address the existing over-utilization of the LAC+USC Medical Center as part of the overall campus planning efforts.

Our obligations as a safety net provider will not diminish under the Affordable Care Act. Indeed, as Los Angeles County prepares to enter into new territory under health care reform, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that we can meet those obligations. Therefore, we must not lose any time through inaction—we must be poised and ready to meet Los Angeles County’s needs.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT Chief Executive Officer and the Department of Public Works, in consultation with the Department of Health Services, direct the amendment of the LAC+USC campus master plan’s scope to include necessary preparations for building of a 150 med-surg bed expansion of the LAC+USC Medical Center.